THE CHARACTER OF A Disbanded Courtier:

Dedicated to the Author of that Famous Speech, call'd, The Speech of a Noble Peer.

By a Person of Quality.

HE was Born of a considerable Family, Heir to a Fortune above contemptible; but with an aspiring mind, by much too high flown for his Quality, and his Estate.

His Behavior towards his King was so Loyal, in times of difficulty and danger, that every Body who knew him, knew he deserv'd Advancement; Advancement at least as high as that of *Haman*.

His dexterity in doing ill, made him thought capable of performing admirably well, if ever he came to be publickly employ'd and entrusted.

So he was prefer'd for his Ability, to the highest places of Honour and Office; admitted into the Cabinet-Councils, made acquainted with all the Secret Wheels, and could tell how many Cogs there was in each Wheel, upon which the great Engine of State was turned, and kept in motion.

By the Favor of his Prince he acquired sufficient Riches, to support the splendor of a Family, new rais'd to the degree of Nobility.

His Glory was once so eminently conspicuous, that there were but a few persons below the Crown, seem'd above him, and nothing was wanting to render his Felicity as lasting as Nature intended his Life; but a Heart that knew how to be grateful to a most Munificent Benefactor.

He thought all the Favors, and Honours, he enjoy'd, were less then the reward of his Merit; that Thought puff'd him up with Pride, such a sort of Pride, as is usually attended with

an irrecoverable fall, which was his Fortune; and at his fall, (like that of *Lucifer*, his Predeceſſor) might very well have been proclaim'd, *Woe to you the Inhabitants of the Earth,* for the Devil is come down among you.

Open Revenge againſt his Sovereign, being too dangerous to attempt, he preſently reſolves upon ſecret; he expoſes all the Weakneſſes and Infirmities of the Court, (from which no Court, or City, or Country, is, or will ever be free,) and where he can find no real faults, he feigns imaginary ones, and paſſes them off for currant.

By his new and falſe Optic, he repreſents every Molo-hill of miſtake, in the publick Adminiſtration, for a Mountain as tall as *Teneriff*, and as dangerous as the top of *Ætna*; nay, he Multiplies, and Magnifies, the very Miſcarriages, which were the effect of his own evil Council.

He amuſes the freeſt Nation in the Univerſe, with wild rumors, and extravagant apprehenſions of Slavery; under the Government of a Prince, who in Acts of Favor, and Mercy, and Clemency, has exceeded all his Predeceſſors.

He fills the heads of the People full, with whimſical Fears, of phantaſtick Devils, *Chymæra's*, which only his Malice had rais'd, on purpoſe to frighten them out of their Loyalty, and their Wits, and prepare and ripen them, for Bedlam, or Rebellion.

He makes the pretences of Liberty, the Stirrup to get up, and Religion, the Steed he Rides, in purſuit of his Monſtrous Deſigns.

With theſe pretences, he cheats the Innocent, (after tickling their Fancies with the Feather of Ambition) and promiſing to open their Eyes, ſerves them as the Apoſtate Angel did our Parents in Paradice, only blows into them the Duſt of Diſobedience, and then robs them of thoſe Jewels he undertook to beſtow, (*viz.*) Liberty, * and Religion, † which are both ſo much talk'd of, and both ſo little underſtood.

* *Liberty is not a Freedom for every man to do what he pleaſes; ſuch a Freedom would empower the worſt part of Mankind to Ruine, and inſlave the beſt. Juſt Laws, well Executed, are the truſt Liberties of Juſt men, and ſhould be the utmoſt extent of their wiſhes.*

† *Religion does not conſiſt in the ſtubborn adhering to a Faction, or in crying up one Party or Profeſſion as Infallible, and Condemning all others as Damnable; but in doing Juſtice, and loving Mercy, and walking humbly with God, ſays Malachi the Prophet. And is in firſt Pure, then Peaceable, ſays St. Paul the Apoſtle.*

Being

Being a Gentleman of no Religion himself, he seems for all that, to Espouse every Devision, and Sub-division of it; every Faction, and Person, who are bold enough, to stand stiff in opposition to the *Ancient* and *Well Setled Government*.

If he be by Inclination Covetous, and temperate by Nature and Habit; he rather chuses to invert Nature itself, than suffer a disappointment in his Designs of *Revenge* to which he makes a Sacrifice at once, both of his Virtues and his Vices.

He keeps open house for Entertainment of all State-Malt-Contents, without consideration of Quality or Qualifications.

He Accompanies, and Carrowses, and Contracts Intimacy, and Amity, with the lewdest Debauchees in all the Nation, that he thinks will any ways help to forward his private Intrigues.

He becomes all things, to all men, in the very worst of senses: perverting the design of St. *Paul*, that he may at least prevail upon some, to be as bad as himself.

Nor are Soft and Easie men by him only deluded, he is too cunning for the very Lawyers themselves, (tho they are too cunning for all the rest of Mankind) a most Eminent *Attorney*, and a Famous *Solicitor*, and a Reverend *Judge*, are not free from the force of his Inchantments.

By the Subtlety of his Insinuations, he bewitches to Associate with him, great part of the New, and of the Sons of the Old Nobility: the Sons of such *Fathers*, as dyed, in the faithful defence of their suffering Soveraign.

He deceives (besides a Number of other Great Men, and Great Councellors) a *General* of an Army, a *Vice-Roy* of a Kingdom, a *Darling* of the People, and a *Son* to the Greatest, and the best of *Fathers* upon Earth.

He would fain be reputed as constant as the *Sun*; and yet this Age has produced nothing beneath the *Moon*, more fickle and variable, for he never was, and 'tis like never will be true to any thing; save onely the Eternal Resolution of doing Mischief.

Having lost his Honour with his *Prince*, and the good Opinion of the best Subjects and best Men; he cringes and creeps, and sneaks to the meanest, and basest of the People, to procure himself among them, an Empty and Vain-glorious, because undeserved Name: The *Patriot* of his Country.

And

And hoping to be shortly made the little head, of the *Great Rabble*: he would perswade them to believe that they are all betray'd; and that the King himself, is in the *Plot* against himself, as well as in the *Plot* against them.

He encourages them to strike home, against those whom he calls the Enemies of the King, and Kingdome: (pointing at the faithfullest and most affectionate Servants to both) well knowing that the mighty *Fabrick* can never be shaken; till its main Pillars, and Supporters, be by cunning and sly Stratagem, either destroy'd, or undermined.

At last, through the *Divine Providence*, the Magical Mist he had cast before Mens Eyes, dissipates, and totally vanishes.

The Hypocritical Vaile, falls off, of its own accord, leaving his Deformity naked, and openly exposed.

His dearly beloved Mistress *Popular Applause* forsakes him, and to compleat his undoing, he lives to see the Death, and Burial of his *Fame*: even the very fame of his *Politics*.

So that nothing remains to yeild him Consolation, after such sensible and biting Disgraces; but only the liberty he has left him, to follow the great Example of King *David's* defeated *Politition*.

POSCRIPT to the Printer.

IF you be curious, to know, who is meant in this Character; you may easily imagine, 'tis Simon de Montford *Earl of* Leicester: *in whose time the Wood Parliament Sate at* Westminster.

He was one while a Prime Favourite of the King, one while the meer Idol of the People; sometimes a Rebel, and always a Rogue.

However, If any man now alive, claim a Propriety in any part of the Character; you may tell him, The Author is a peaceable Person, and rather then stand a Suit at Law, let every one take what part he calls his own, and much good may it do him.

Farewel.

LONDON, Printed for *R. J.* 1682.

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